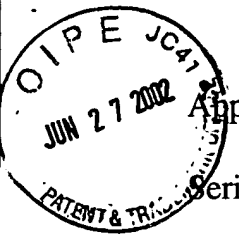


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Pelikan et al. )  
 )  
 Serial No. 10/051,317 )  
 )  
 Filed: January 18, 2002 )  
 )  
 For: METHOD FOR OPTIMIZING )  
 A SOLUTION SET )  
 )  
 Art Unit: 2183 )

*I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as FIRST-CLASS mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on this date.*

6/21/02  
 Date

F-CLASS.WCM  
 Appr. February 20, 1998

Registration No. 40,607

Attorney for Applicant

**RECEIVED**

JUL 03 2002

Technology Center 2100

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
 Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Prior to examination of this application, please amend the application as follows:

In the Specification:

Beginning on page 1, line 5 please insert the following new paragraph:

--STATEMENT OF GOVERNMENT INTEREST

This invention was made with government assistance from the Air Force Office of Scientific Research, Air Force Material Command, U.S.A.F., under grants number F49620-97-0050, number F49620-00-0163; and from the National Science Foundation under grant number DMI-9908252; and from the U.S. Army Research Laboratory under the Federal Laboratory Program, Cooperative Agreement number DAAL01-96-2-0003. The government has certain rights in this invention.--